

MARBLE HILL PRESS.

Vol. 14.

Marble Hill, Missouri, Thursday, January 3, 1895.

No. 35.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Drink Problem.

The New York Sun says: President Seth Low of Columbia college and forty-nine other men representing different communities and occupations have sent all over the country letters like the following: "Washington, D. C., Dec. 10, 1894.

"Dear Sir: As you will see by the inclosed memorandum a committee of fifty, of which Seth Low of Columbia college, New York, is president, is engaged in the study of the liquor problem. Among the questions which seem important in connection with the work of the sub-committee on the physiological and pathological aspects of the drink problem there may be mentioned the following:

"1. Is the regular consumption of a moderate quantity of whisky, wine or beer conducive to the maintenance of health and working power in any class of men? If so, in what class, and what is the average quantity thus useful?

"2. What is the quantity of whisky, wine or beer which the average man in good health may consume daily without special risk of injuring his health? Does this vary in connection with variations of age, of climate, or of occupation, and what are those variations?

"The committee is fully aware of the difficulty of securing trustworthy evidence with regard to these questions, but still ventures to hope that if the objects and methods commend themselves to the intelligence of the community an attempt to collect statistical information will not be wholly fruitless. With this object in view, the questions on the inclosed form are addressed to a large number of men in various parts of the country who are above 40 years of age, and are engaged in mental work of a high class. The list includes the names of judges, lawyers, scientific and medical men, bankers, financiers, managers of corporations, etc.

"If you are willing to contribute the result of your personal experience to the solution of the problem you are earnestly requested to answer the questions on the inclosed sheet and return the same at your earliest convenience to Dr. John S. Billings, Army Medical Museum, Washington, D. C., for which purpose an envelope is inclosed. The answers thus received will be used in the compilation of statistical tables, but the individual reports will be held strictly confidential; they need not be signed, and no names will be given in any case."

The other officers of this committee besides President Low are Charles Dudley Warner, vice president; Prof. Francis Peabody, secretary; William E. Dodge, treasurer. The executive board consists of the aforementioned officers and Dr. J. S. Billings, president; C. W. Elliot, Col. Jacob L. Green, and Gen. Francis A. Walker. President Low said yesterday that this committee has been working for several months and hopes from these letters to obtain valuable statistics. It is the aim to secure a body of facts relating to the medical, legislative, ethical and economic aspects of the liquor question, which will serve as a basis for intelligent public and private action.

With these letters are inclosed blank forms on which are printed the following questions:

1. Age. 2. Occupation. 3. Are you a total abstainer? 4. If so, have you always been so? 5. Do you drink spirits, wine or beer occasionally at a social function, but not daily? 6. Do you drink spirits, wine or beer every day as a matter of habit? If so, please state the kind and the amount of liquor thus consumed. (If affirmative answers are given to either of the last two questions please state whether any particular form of alcoholic drink is in your case found to be specially desirable or undesirable.) 7. Are you aware of any chronic disturbance of your health; and if so, what is its nature? 8. Give any facts derived from your personal

experience which will throw light on the problems under investigation.

President Lowell said yesterday that the work of collecting these statistics had just been begun, and that it was impossible now to give any indications as to the results.

The Carlisle Amendments.

Representative Springer, says a Washington dispatch, makes public the following summary, intended as a popular explanation of the currency bill as modified by the late Carlisle amendments:

"In the first place," said Mr. Springer, "the Carlisle bill proposes a radical change in the manner of securing the bank note circulation. The rapid payment of the public debts, the limited number of bonds now outstanding and the further fact that many of them are held in trust capacities in this country, and as permanent investments by persons residing abroad, have rendered the kind of security now required impracticable. The Carlisle bill proposes for security of the circulating notes of the national banks, instead of United States bonds, a guarantee fund consisting of legal tender notes or currency certificates to the amount of 30 per cent of the circulation applied for; also a safety fund to be raised by a tax of one-half of 1 per cent per annum upon the circulating notes until it reaches 5 per centum of the whole circulation, and, as a further security, a first lien upon all the assets of the bank and upon the amount which may be realized by the double liability feature of the national banking law.

"The guarantee fund of 30 per centum, the assets of the bank and the personal liability of the stockholders can only go to the payment of the circulating notes of the bank which issues them, but the 5 per cent guarantee fund raised by a tax upon all the circulation of the country is a common fund out of which the notes of any failed bank may be paid, if the guarantee fund, the assets and personal liabilities of the stockholders are not sufficient. Thus, on a circulation of \$200,000,000, the present national bank circulation, the safety fund would amount to \$10,000,000, and this whole fund could be drawn upon to pay the notes of any bank that failed. This security is considered ample by the safest financiers and bankers of the country.

"The currency bill as amended does not compel national banks to enter the new system. They may continue under the old law, but it is thought that the banking officials will soon see the advantage of the new plan and adopt it."

The Oldest Apple Tree.

The decayed stump is all that remains of the famous "mother tree," the oldest known specimen of the Rhode Island greenling. A few rods southwest of the old limekiln on the northern verge of Fruit hill, on Frederick W. Winsor's farm, stands a younger tree. Mrs. Winsor's great-grandfather, Nehemiah Smith, planted the mother tree, of which the other is a limb wrenched while loaded with fruit from the parent stock, during King George II's reign, in 1748, and was therefore 141 years old when it was cut down in 1889-90, and its life from the seed must be nearly 150 years, says the Providence Journal.

The present tree, the "daughter tree," so-called, is a limb of the mother trunk and was broken off in the September gale of 1815, and which, from an elbow thrust into the moist, rich soil, took root and became independent. F. M. Perry of Canandaigua, N. Y., a famous nurseryman and pomologist, pronounced the fruit of these trees the finest of the greenling family, and procured hundreds of scions from the stock to introduce into New York and the middle states.

Last year the younger tree bore about ten bushels of the finest quality of apples, and bids fair to breast the storms of many a winter yet to come.

OUR CORRESPONDENCE.

ZALMA.

Sickness is plentiful. Weather a little wintry. Pat Watkins of Jackson spent a couple of days in Zalma.

Willie, the 6-year-old son of Mr. Hamilton, died on the 22d ult.

The angel went to heaven again Friday night and returned Sunday night.

The Christmas tree was a success. It was heavily laden with beautiful gifts.

Miss Lily Peters, who has been very sick for two weeks, is slowly recovering.

Dec. 20, at the bride's home. Miss Tilda Borders and John Long were married.

Watkins and King have returned from Arkansas, where they have been on a trading tour.

Sunday afternoon, Dec. 23, Miss Frost and David Fields were married, Rev. Henry Gaines officiating.

On Friday, Dec. 21, Dan Sullivan swore out warrants for the following persons: A. F. Boyer, Bill Hinman, B. Deckard, Charley Deckard, Nim Hinman and Mr. Beaumont, charging them with an attempt to rob and kill. All gave bond.

Another of Zalma's prettiest girls is gone. At 6 p. m. Wednesday Miss Mamie Henley and John Grisham were married by Rev. Mr. Rogers at the bride's home. The bride was beautifully dressed in white. After the ceremony the guests, led by the newly married couple, made their way to the dining-room, where they did justice to the good things set before them. On Thursday the happy couple, accompanied by S. J. McMinn and Miss Henley, Leo Slinkard and Miss Watkins, Mrs. Slinkard and Mrs. Lages, visited the groom's father at Lowndes. The party arrived about 1 o'clock and at 1:30 sat down to an elegant dinner. They returned to Zalma on Friday and Saturday left for Belgrade, where they will make their future home. Peace, joy and happiness be with them, is the wish of their friends.

Success to THE PRESS and its new management, is the prayer of your correspondent. SHERNY.

NORTH ZALMA.

Some time ago I promised to give you some North Zalma items, but a woman, you know, can't very well gather the town talk in a six-inch shoe; but if you will accept my explanation I will try to keep my promise.

The foremost subject in every mind around our village has been the big snow. But I suppose you have plenty of "the beautiful" in Marble Hill, so I needn't say anything about it.

News is pretty scarce, just now, around here, as the men and boys, when they are not hunting rabbits, are toasting their shins around the fire, and the women keep indoors pretty well.

The bad weather is interfering a great deal with the school, and Asa Spears, our teacher, says that if the weather doesn't soon moderate his school will play out.

Business at North Zalma is about froze out. The store is doing very little business and Mr. Gaines has shut up his blacksmith shop. But it is hoped that business will revive soon.

Our school had a spelling bout with the Patterson school and we were too easily defeated. Asa says we must try it again soon. I hope our children will study their spellers hard, so as to be able to win next time.

There is considerable petty thieving going on in this section. "Squire" Gaines complains that some one is stealing his corn and Parson Dehl and Parson Goble say some one has stolen about all they had.

This weather is hard on poor cows and hogs, as corn is scarce in this section.

Mr. Alf Shell is very sick just now and has been for a long time.

Mr. Draper, who lives about a mile from North Zalma, went to town the other day and got his feet

pretty badly frozen, but at last accounts was doing well.

Monday night a box supper was given for the benefit of our church and the boys and girls had a good time. Several quarters changed hands.

The hens have gone on a strike and eggs are very scarce.

Frank Draper got sixteen rabbits Christmas day.

Henry Fee went out with one charge of ammunition and got nine partridges. MOLLY.

LODGE.

Holidays are over; passed off nicely, with several parties in the neighborhood.

The snowstorm of the 26th had a rather cooling effect on the Christmas hilarity.

Rev. Mr. Simpson of Jackson has been conducting a series of meetings at the Grassie General Baptist church.

The ministers' and deacons' meeting was held with the Flatwoods church Saturday and continued over Sunday.

Nathan Kinder gave a ball on the night of the 26th. I was informed that everything went off nicely and all present enjoyed themselves.

Lee Shaffer also gave a ball the evening of the 28th.

L. G. Stovall and D. M. Sitzes went to Marble Hill last Friday, Green to get his papers, and now we look for the wedding.

I have been informed that M. J. Francis has received the appointment of justice of the peace for Fillmore.

R. McCormick of near Glen Allen and Sam Newell of this vicinity have been doing some trading recently. THE KID.

PATTON.

The Heitman schoolhouse, north of here, caught on fire and was consumed a few days ago.

A Christmas tree was all that afforded amusement here the 25th, but everybody seemed to be having a good time.

Vitollas Miller of Millerville spent Christmas with relatives here.

R. & D. Robinson's new store building will soon be complete.

George Spray and wife of Mine la Motte spent the holidays with friends and relatives near here.

Miss Emma, daughter of Henry Nugent, had a severe fall the other day and was painfully though not seriously injured.

F. J. Mayfield and Miss Polly A., daughter of Aaron Bollinger, were married, Dec. 30, by Justice D. F. Bollinger.

Jay Robinson of Cape Girardeau county, was visiting relative here this week.

The young people have had several parties during the holidays.

J. H. Heitman and wife of Heitman's mill, visited their parents this week.

J. B. Martin has his shingle machine in operation now.

B. F. Sharrock has moved to Libertyville.

There is an outlook for several weddings soon.

Christmas is past and we are now to begin on a new year. Let's try to make it a success.

A happy New Year!

A TREASURE SEEKER.

Death of a Missourian Whose Life Was Spent Hunting for Hidden Wealth.

John Wilson died in Dexter and was buried here a day or two ago, says a Post-Dispatch special, and in his death passes away one of the most remarkable characters that ever lived in Southeast Missouri. His whole life was one of adventure, and he was imbued with but one idea, that of discovering and possessing the hidden and fabulous wealth of Carlos Sparenti, a Spanish-Italian adventurer, who was murdered by the Indians near New Madrid about the year 1600.

The story goes that Sparenti was a direct descendant of a Spanish nobleman who assisted Cortez in plundering the Montezumas. He

was a sport by nature and a gambler by cultivation, and during one of the orgies after the downfall of the Aztecs he succeeded in gaining the largest share of the wealth from his companions by sharp practices. Fearing harm at their hands when they returned to their sober senses, he procured two horses and, accompanied by a faithful servant, disappeared in the night. A few days later he returned with the story that he had been kidnapped by the natives and robbed. Years passed and the nobleman was hurried away to Spain. To his family he confided the story of his treasure with charts, maps, compasses of distance from certain unchanging landmarks. Fifty years later the search was begun, abandoned, then taken up again, and thus the centuries rolled by.

It remained to the good fortune of Sparenti to recover the treasure. Exiled from his native country by some political offense he determined to find a spot that suited his fancy and establish a kingdom of his own. Through great difficulty he made his way to Mexico and with guides began an expedition in the mountains. A year later he was on the banks of the Mississippi with a retinue of possibly fifty men. The treasure was in his possession, but the spirit of exploration and adventure burned strong within him. Constructing red boats they began the ascent of the stream. Landing where New Madrid now stands they tied up for the night. Stealthily the night crept on, and their dreams were doubtless of their far away southern homes. In their sense of security no sentinels were placed out, and as pale tints of crimson began to streak the eastern sky they were aroused from their slumbers by hideous yells, only to fall victims to the savagery of tomahawk or bludgeons. But one man was left to tell the story to his people. The stores were captured, the treasure was found, and then the Indians started inland. Little river was reached, and on account of its weight it was confided to the care of the medicine men of the marauding band, who deposited it in a cave on or near the banks of this stream, supposed to be about fifteen miles to the northwest of the hills upon which Bloomfield now stands.

Wilson was well known here, and everywhere bore the name of "Choc-taw Wilson," on account of his long residence with that tribe and his dealings with them. On one occasion he saved the life of a chief's son by receiving a bullet in his own body that was intended for the Indian. This gave him so much prestige that to him was confided the story of the Spanish murder of Sparenti and his companions and the capture and hiding of the treasure. Various excursions had been made here by them to locate and carry the treasure off, but the cave where it was concealed was never found. This was Wilson's life work. A few years ago he discovered what he conceived to be the cave and found the skeletons of several Indians who had lost their lives in the venture. Besides this he brought in several specimens of gold-bearing quartz. His exploration of the cave consumed, at intervals, several months, but his labors were never rewarded with the fruits of his search.

Several years ago an expedition of Spaniards made their way into this country and after several days of search they left—not, however, until they left the story of Sparenti and the hidden treasure. Their search was mostly confined to the region around New Madrid. The two stories were used by Wilson as a basis upon which to operate. He was a queer character, but one of the most reserved and intelligent men that ever lived in this section of the state. He was well versed in mineralogy and many of the sciences—altogether a good, reputable citizen.

A trainload of corn for Nebraska sufferers will leave Atlanta, Ga., on the 15th inst.